

A NEW SPECIES OF HALOBATES FROM THE BAY OF BENGAL

(HEMIPTERA: GERRIDAE)

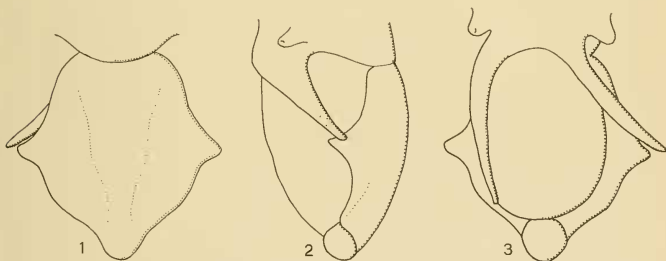
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Recently, Mr. William H. Gladfelter, Department of the Navy, Suitland, Maryland, sent to the U.S. National Museum some insect specimens that were collected with fishes and miscellaneous invertebrates during a trip through the Strait of Malacca. The marine water striders that he collected represent three species: *Halobates micans* Eschscholtz, *H. germanus* White, and the following new species.

***Halobates trynae*, n. sp.**

(Figs. 1-3)

A rather short, oval, steel-gray species with apical 3 antennal segments in proportion 12: 9: 13¹ in ♂ and 13: 9: 13 in ♀. Basal segment of anterior tarsus shorter than apical segment, 11: 14 in ♂ and 12: 15 in ♀. Middle and hind femora not noticeably stout. No black bristles on mesometanotum of either sex. Left styliiform process of ♂ short, curved outward, reaching middle of tergum 9; right process elongate, curved inward (Fig. 3). Venter of ♂ and ♀ with distinct yellow markings.



Male. *Head*... Antenna over one-half as long as body, 69: 123; proportion of segments I-IV, 35: 12: 9: 13. Head wider across eyes than length, disc rather abruptly swollen, depressed laterally. Eyes small, interocular width only slightly over 4 times width of an eye. *Thorax*. Pronotum with sides subrounded and diverging posteriorly, shorter than head on median line, 10: 20; anterior and posterior margins rather deeply concavely arcuate. Meso-metanotum abruptly roundly angled anteriorly, width just behind anterior angles equal to width of head including eyes, 42: 42, abruptly increasing in width posteriorly, greatest width anterior to bases of middle and high acetabula, 42: 55; sides distinctly rounded. No black bristles present on thorax or acetabula. *Legs*. Anterior femur incrassate; length (excluding trochanter) about one-third longer than tibia, 50: 33. Anterior tarsus

¹ 27.5 units = 1 millimeter.

with basal segment distinctly shorter than apical segment, 11: 14. First segment of intermediate tarsus 3 times as long as second 40: 14. Hind tarsus 1-segmented. Intermediate femur much longer than posterior femur, 145: 105. Intermediate tibia longer than posterior tibia, 80: 52. *Abdomen*. Styliform processes (Fig. 3) asymmetrical, clothed with long pubescence; left process short, curved outward, attaining apex of median flange of tergum 9, visible from above. Right process long, curved inward, extending beyond level of lateral flanges of tergum 9. Tergum 9 symmetrical, about as broad as long (Fig. 1). *Coloration*. Uniformly steel gray with very fine pubescence. Rostrum, antennae, legs and tergum 9, glistening black. Pale markings on head not extensive, extending forward to middle of eyes. Venter much the same as dorsum except abdominal segments medially, and middle acetabula, yellowish; lateral margins of abdominal segments and styliform processes, brown. *Size*. Length 4.5 mm; greatest width 2.0 mm.

Female. Very similar to ♂ but more oval in form, i.e., shorter and broader. Antenna proportionately longer than in ♂, over one-half as long as body, 67: 116; proportion of segments I-IV, 32: 13: 9: 13. First anterior tarsal segment shorter than second, 12: 15. Intermediate femur to posterior femur, 140: 94. Intermediate tibia to posterior tibia, 77: 52. Coloration as in male. Length 4.3 mm.; greatest width 2.2 mm.

Holotype ♂ (USNM Type No. 67324), Bay of Bengal, 6° 19' N, 92° E, Nov.-Dec. 1961, W. Gladfelter. Allotype ♀, 8° 10' N, 92° E, same date and collector. Paratypes, 1 ♀, same data as holotype; 2 ♀ ♀, same data as allotype; 2 ♂ ♂, 1 ♀, 6° 29' N, 94° 49' E, same date and collector. All material in the U.S. National Museum.

Although these specimens bear labels reading "St. of Malacca", the latitude and longitude readings place the locality northwest of the Strait in the region of the Nicobar Islands.

Diagnosis. This species belongs to the open-ocean group and runs to *eschscholtzi* Herring in my key (1961). The males of that species are unknown, but females of the two species exhibit striking differences. *H. trynac* may be distinguished from *eschscholtzi* by the shorter anterior tarsal segment I, the lack of a keel or fold across the posterior margin of the head, the more concave anterior and posterior pronotal margins, the relatively longer intermediate femur (as compared with the posterior femur) and its shorter body. Tergum 9 of the male most closely resembles that of *micans*, but the left styliform process is quite different (Figs. 1-3).

REFERENCE

- Herring, Jon L. 1961. The genus *Halobates* (Hemiptera: Gerridae). Pacific Insects 3 (2-3): 223-305.

ANNOUNCEMENT

At a recent meeting of our Executive Committee, Dr. Thomas E. Snyder was elected Honorary President of the Society.